

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed S. 2338, FHA Modernization Act.

Senate passed H.R. 2419, Farm Bill Extension Act.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S15579–S15707

Measures Introduced: Seven bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 2485–2491, and S. Res. 406. **Page S15651**

Measures Reported:

Report to accompany S. 1607, to provide for identification of misaligned currency, require action to correct the misalignment. (S. Rept. No. 110–248)

Report to accompany S. 2113, to implement the United States-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement. (S. Rept. No. 110–249) **Page S15651**

Measures Passed:

FHA Modernization Act: By 93 yeas to 1 nay (Vote No. 432), Senate passed S. 2338, to modernize and update the National Housing Act and enable the Federal Housing Administration to more effectively reach underserved borrowers, after taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S15580–98**

Adopted:

Schumer (for Dodd/Shelby) Amendment No. 3853, to require a 12-month moratorium on the implementation of risk-based premiums for FHA insured mortgages. **Page S15583**

Rejected:

Coburn Amendment No. 3854, to ensure the cap on Home Equity Conversion Mortgages is not permanently eliminated before a study regarding program costs and credits is submitted to Congress. **Pages S15585–92**

Enrollment Correction: Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 269, directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to correct the enrollment of the bill H.R. 1585. **Page S15619**

Farm Bill Extension Act: By 79 yeas to 14 nays (Vote No. 434), Senate passed H.R. 2419, to provide

for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2012, after taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto:

Pages S15622–41

Adopted:

Harkin/Chambliss Amendment No. 3855 (to Amendment No. 3500), of a perfecting nature.

Pages S15637–39

Harkin Amendment No. 3500, in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S15622–39**

Withdrawn:

Chambliss (for Cornyn) Amendment No. 3687 (to Amendment No. 3500), to prevent duplicative payments for agricultural disaster assistance already covered by the Agricultural Disaster Relief Trust Fund.

Pages S15622, S15639

Chambliss (for Coburn) Modified Amendment No. 3807 (to Amendment No. 3500), to ensure the priority of the farm bill remains farmers by eliminating wasteful Department of Agriculture spending on golf courses, junkets, cheese centers, and aging barns.

Pages S15622–23, S15639

Salazar Amendment No. 3616 (to Amendment No. 3500), to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide incentives for the production of all cellulosic biofuels. **Pages S15623, S15639**

Thune (for McConnell) Amendment No. 3821 (to Amendment No. 3500), to promote the nutritional health of school children, with an offset.

Pages S15623, S15639

Thune (for Roberts/Brownback) Amendment No. 3549 (to Amendment No. 3500), to modify a provision relating to regulations. **Pages S15623, S15639**

Domenici Amendment No. 3614 (to Amendment No. 3500), to reduce our Nation's dependency for foreign oil by investing in clean, renewable, and alternative energy resources. **Pages S15623, S15639**

Thune (for Gregg) Amendment No. 3674 (to Amendment No. 3500), to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude charges of indebtedness on principal residences from gross income.

Pages S15623, S15639

Thune (for Gregg) Amendment No. 3822 (to Amendment No. 3500), to provide nearly \$1,000,000,000 in critical home heating assistance to low-income families and senior citizens for the 2007–2008 winter season, and reduce the Federal deficit by eliminating wasteful farm subsidies.

Pages S15623, S15639

Thune (for Grassley/Kohl) Amendment No. 3823 (to Amendment No. 3500), to provide for the review of agricultural mergers and acquisitions by the Department of Justice.

Pages S15623, S15639

Thune (for Stevens) Amendment No. 3569 (to Amendment No. 3500), to make commercial fishermen eligible for certain operating loans.

Pages S15623, S15639

Thune (for Bond) Amendment No. 3771 (to Amendment No. 3500), to amend title 7, United States Code, to include provisions relating to rule-making.

Pages S15623, S15639

Sanders Amendment No. 3826 (to Amendment No. 3822), to provide for payments under subsections (a) through (e) of section 2604 of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981, and restore supplemental agricultural disaster assistance from the Agricultural Disaster Relief Trust Fund.

Pages S15623, S15639

Harkin/Murkowski Amendment No. 3639 (to Amendment No. 3500), to improve nutrition standards for foods and beverages sold in schools.

Pages S15623, S15639

Reid Motion to invoke cloture on the bill.

Page S15639

Senate insisted on its amendment, requested a conference with the House thereon, and the Chair was authorized to appoint conferees.

Page S15639

Mortgage Forgiveness Debt Relief Act: Committee on Finance was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3648, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude discharges of indebtedness on principal residences from gross income, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto:

Pages S15642–43

Stabenow (for Baucus) Amendment No. 3856, in the nature of a substitute.

Page S15642

Openness Promotes Effectiveness in our National Government Act: Senate passed S. 2488, to promote accessibility, accountability, and openness in Government by strengthening section 552 of title 5, United

States Code (commonly referred to as the Freedom of Information Act).

Pages S15701–04

Hanging of Nooses Sense of the Senate: Senate agreed to S. Res. 396, expressing the sense of the Senate that the hanging of nooses should be thoroughly investigated by Federal, State, and local law enforcement authorities and that any criminal violations should be vigorously prosecuted, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute.

Pages S15704–05

Wounded Warrior Bonus Equity Act: Committee on Armed Services was discharged from further consideration of S. 2400, to amend title 37, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Defense to continue to pay to a member of the Armed Forces who is retired or separated from the Armed Forces due to a combat-related injury certain bonuses that the member was entitled to before the retirement or separation and would continue to be entitled to if the member was not retired or separated, and the bill was then passed.

Pages S15705–06

Arizona Water Rights: Committee on Indian Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3739, to amend the Arizona Water Settlements Act to modify the requirements for the statement of findings, and the bill was then passed, clearing the measure for the President.

Page S15706

Measures Considered:

FISA Amendments Act—Agreement: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2248, to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, to modernize and streamline the provisions of that Act.

Pages S15644–47

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Friday, December 14, 2007, a vote on cloture will occur at 12 noon, on Monday, December 17, 2007.

Page S15647

Subsequently, the motion to proceed was withdrawn.

Page S15647

A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill at approximately 10 a.m., on Monday, December 17, 2007, with the time until 12 noon equally divided and controlled between the two Leaders or their designees, with Senator Dodd controlling 40 minutes and Senator Feingold controlling 15 minutes of the opponents' time; provided further, Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill.

Page S15706

Conference Reports:

National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008: By 90 yeas to 3 nays (Vote No. 433), Senate agreed to the conference report on H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, clearing the measure for the President. **Pages S15598–S15619**

Treaties Approved: The following treaties having passed through their various parliamentary stages, up to and including the presentation of the resolution of ratification, upon division, two-thirds of the Senators present having voted in the affirmative, the resolutions of ratification were agreed to:

Tax Convention with Belgium (Treaty Doc. 110–3); and

Protocol Amending Tax Convention with Germany (Treaty Doc. 109–20). **Page S15706**

Tinder Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that when the Senate considers the nomination of John Daniel Tinder, of Indiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit, that there be 30 minutes equally divided between the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on the Judiciary, and that at the conclusion or yielding back of time, Senate vote on confirmation thereon. **Page S15701**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Thomas D. Schroeder, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of North Carolina.

Charles E. F. Millard, of New York, to be Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

Joseph N. Laplante, of New Hampshire, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Hampshire.

James B. Peake, of the District of Columbia, to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs. **Pages S15700–01, S15707**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

David J. Kramer, of Massachusetts, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor.

Thomas M. Beck, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for a term of five years expiring July 1, 2010.

Matt Michael Dummermuth, of Iowa, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Iowa for the term of four years. **Pages S15706–07**

Nominations Withdrawn: Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nominations:

Wayne Cartwright Beyer, of New Hampshire, to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for a term of five years expiring July 1, 2010 (Recess Appointment), which was sent to the Senate on January 9, 2007.

Thomas M. Beck, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for a term of five years expiring July 29, 2012, which was sent to the Senate on June 28, 2007. **Page S15707**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Page S15651**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S15651–52**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S15652–53**

Additional Statements: **Pages S15650–51**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S15653–S15700**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Page S15700**

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—434) **Pages S15593, S15619, S15639**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 5:20 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Monday, December 17, 2007. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S15706.)

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

The House was not in session today. The House is scheduled to meet at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, December 17, 2007.

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.